



IPW

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

## TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

14

Application Number	10/644,252
Filing Date	August 20, 2003
First Named Inventor	Thomas Zdeblick
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	Julian W. Woo
Attorney Docket Number	MSDI-224/PC242.38

### ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement  <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return Receipt Postcard
<div>Remarks</div>		

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Krieg DeVault LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Brad A. Schepers		
Date	January 17, 2006	Reg. No.	45,431

### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Brad A. Schepers	Date	January 17, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:	)	Before the Examiner
Thomas Zdeblick et al.	)	Julian W. Woo
	)	
Serial No. 10/644,252	)	Group Art Unit 3731
	)	
Filed August 20, 2003	)	Ref. No. MSDI-224/ PC242.38
	)	
INTERBODY FUSION DEVICE AND	)	January 17, 2006
METHOD FOR RESTORATION OF	)	
NORMAL SPINAL ANATOMY	)	

## RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated October 14, 2005, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks. The Applicant notes that the three (3) month deadline for filing a Response to the non-final Office Action fell on January 14, 2006 (a Saturday), and that January 16, 2006 was a federal holiday. Accordingly, no extension fees are believed to be due with regard to the filing of this Response. However, please provide any extensions of time necessary and charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 12- 2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

January 17, 2006

Date of Deposit

Brad A. Schepers

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

January 17, 2006

Date of Signature

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Claims 19-50 are pending in the subject application. Claims 19-25, 31-37 and 50 are allowed. Claim 27 has been objected to, but has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 26, 28-30 and 38-49 currently stand rejected. In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.